

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a capture mechanism configured to engage a peripheral device separate therefrom, the capture mechanism having a tubular shaped grasping member and an actuator longitudinally moveable with respect to the grasping member when pushed by the peripheral device, the actuator urged against the grasping member when in a first position to maintain the grasping member in an open position prior to receiving the peripheral device, the grasping member configured to close to a closed position around the peripheral device to engage the peripheral device therein in response to the peripheral device being inserted into the grasping member and pushing the actuator away from the grasping member from the first position to the second position; and

a sensing assembly configured to detect movement of the peripheral device while the peripheral device is engaged by the capture mechanism.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the actuator further includes:

a spring configured to elongate and compress the tubular grasping member in response to movement of the peripheral device such that the cross-sectional dimension of the tubular grasping member is adjusted.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the grasping member further includes:

a spring configured to elongate and compress the tubular grasping member in response to movement of the peripheral device such that the cross-sectional dimension of the tubular grasping member is adjusted, the grasping member being configured to engage the

peripheral device in response to the elongation of the tubular member and being configured to release the peripheral device in response to the compression of the tubular member.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the capture mechanism is disposed within the sensing assembly.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the capture mechanism further includes:

a plurality of jaws configured to surround and engage the peripheral device.

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

a capture mechanism configured to engage a peripheral device, the capture mechanism having a grasping member and an actuator, the actuator being configured to automatically actuate the grasping member to close the grasping member around the peripheral device to engage the peripheral device therein in response to the peripheral device being inserted into the grasping member;

a sensing assembly configured to detect a manipulation of the peripheral device while the peripheral device is engaged by the capture mechanism; wherein the capture mechanism has a plurality of jaws; and wherein the actuator further includes:

a spring configured to bias the plurality of jaws in a closed position, at least a portion of the grasping member being disposed within the spring; and

a semi-conical expander disposed proximate to the spring and configured to manipulate the plurality of jaws between the closed position and an open position.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the capture mechanism has a plurality of jaws; and wherein the capture mechanism further includes:

an automatic capture-and-release mechanism configured to automatically actuate the plurality of jaws to engage the peripheral device.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the capture mechanism has a plurality of jaws, the plurality of jaws of the capture mechanism are actuated by a force applied by a lever associated with a movement of the peripheral device.

21-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Previously Presented) A method for simulating a medical procedure in a medical procedure simulation system, the method comprising:

receiving a peripheral device configured as a medical instrument into a capture mechanism, the capture mechanism being configured to engage the peripheral device;
and

automatically engaging the peripheral device in a grasping member of the capture mechanism based on a first movement of the peripheral device, wherein the grasping member has a first end configured to allow the peripheral device to be longitudinally inserted therein, wherein the grasping member is configured to automatically close around the peripheral device to engage the peripheral device as the peripheral device longitudinally moves in the first movement and pushes a longitudinally moveable actuator at a second end and initially in contact with the grasping member, the grasping member having a plurality of jaws to engage the peripheral device.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the automatically engaging the peripheral device further includes providing frictionally engagement to the peripheral device.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the providing a plurality of jaws further includes moving a lever to control the plurality of jaws.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the automatically engaging the peripheral device includes mechanically actuating a lever to open and close a plurality of jaws.

39-44. (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 further comprising automatically releasing the peripheral device from the grasping member based on a second movement of the peripheral device, wherein the grasping member automatically opens in response to the second movement to allow the peripheral device to be released therefrom.